SOZ) : (a) As on 31.1.97. no proposal of State Government of Bihar pertaining to South Bihar is pending with Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Delays in clearing of projects usually take place at the State Government level and due to submission of incomplete proposals by the State Governments. This matter has been taken up with the State Governments.

[English]

Security to Investigative Personnel

438. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide full security to the investigating authorities and their family members who are investigating different Scandals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Whenever such requests for security from the concerned authorities are received, the State/UTs are informed about the apprehensions regarding security of the concerned personnel and are requested to provide necessary security to them.

Delay in Transportation of Wheat

439. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an inordinate delay on the part of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in transporting wheat from the Northern States to the food deficient States even after some Northern States asked the FCI to reduce their quota of wheat for the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the reasons for such kind of delay and lapse on the part of FCI; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve upon the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No Sir. The foodgrain movement ex.North has considerably picked up. During 1996, 97.72 lakh tonnes of wheat was moved ex.North compared to 74.86 lakh MTs in 1995 which marks an increase of 30.5%. No State in Northern India has requested for education in their monthly PDS Quota.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) As Railways are the major mode of foodgrain transport, constant liasion has been maintained between the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Railways in order to maximise despatch of wheat to deficit areas thereby increasing the availability of rakes.

Atrocities on Woman

440. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of atrocities committed on women along with their highest/lowest figures for the last two years, State-wise-U.T.-wise;

(b) the steps taken against the culprits in these cases;

(c) whether any programme to curb this menace/ rehabilitate the children of the victims has been formulated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Available information on the incidence of atrocities committed against women during the last two years – 1995 and 1996 – is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (e) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Action for checking crimes against women is also primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administration. However, the Government of India has, from time to time, been writing to the concerned State Governments regarding preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures to be taken in connection with atrocities on women. Apart from implementing a number of development programme like Development of Women and Children in Rural areas (DWACRA) Programme and Female Literacy Programme, the Government of India has been modifying and amending the relevant laws from time to time with a view to making such laws more stringent and punitive in nature.